

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Amended) A method of resolving conflicts in the allocation of a shared resource between a first application to which the resource is currently allocated and a second application requesting access to the resource, comprising:including
receiving, at the resource, a resource allocation request that includes an identity for the second application;
comparing, at the resource, the identity of the second application with an identity for a predetermined prioritized application to determinedetermining whether the second application is thea predetermined prioritizedfavoured application;
in the event that the second application is the predetermined prioritized application, the resource determining whether it has the authority to allocate itself to the second application; and
in the event that the resource has the authority to allocate itself to the second application, the resource allocating itself to the second application.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Amended) A method according to claim 21, comprising, in the event that the resource does not have the authority to permit-allocate itself to the second application~~ion~~, the resource requesting a decision as to how to allocate itself~~the resource~~.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 4, wherein the decision depends on input from a user of the first and second applications.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 4, wherein the decision depends on predetermined priorities assigned to the first and second applications.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 4, wherein the decision comprises denying allocation to the second application.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Amended) A method according to claim 18, wherein the identity of the ~~favoured~~ prioritized application is stored at the resource.

10. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, comprising, in the event that the second application requests use of the resource without requesting its allocation, recording the second application as a user irrespective of whether it is the ~~favoured~~ prioritized application.

11. (Amended) A method of allocating a shared resource between a plurality of applications requesting access to the resource, comprising selecting an application that is to be ~~favoured~~ prioritized during resource allocation and communicating information identifying the ~~favoured~~ prioritized application to the resource.

12. (Amended) A method according to claim 11, further comprising updating the resource with information relating to changes to the ~~favoured~~ prioritized application.

13. (Amended) A method according to claim 11, including determining the prioritized ~~favoured~~ application as the application which is prioritized at a given time.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 13, wherein the prioritized application comprises the application with which the user is interacting at the given time.

15. (Amended) A resource management system for allocating a shared resource between a plurality of applications requesting access to the resource, wherein, in determining the allocation of the resource between a first application to which the resource is currently allocated and a second application requesting access to the resource, the resource is configured:

(a) to receive an identity for the second application,

(b) to compare the identity of the second application to an identity of a predetermined prioritized application to determine whether the second application is the favoured-prioritized application, and in the event that the second application is the predetermined prioritized application,

(c) to determine whether the resource has the authority to allocate itself to the second application, and in the event that the resource has the authority to allocate itself to the second application,

(d) to allocate itself to the second application.

16. (Amended) A system according to claim 15, further comprising a focus controller for determining the application that is to be ~~favoured-prioritized~~ during resource allocation.

17. (Amended) A system according to claim 15 ~~or 16~~, further comprising an application manager for resolving a conflict in a request for the resource between first and second applications.

18. (Amended) A system according to claim 17, wherein the conflict arises when both the first and second applications require ownership of the resource.

19. (Amended) A computer program ~~for execution by a processor~~product,
comprising:
a computer useable storage medium;
computer readable code embodied in said storage medium for implementing
~~to implement~~ conflict resolution in the allocation of a shared resource between a first
application to which the resource is currently allocated and a second application
requesting access to the resource, including program code arranged to~~for~~ compare an
identity of the second application with an identity of a predetermined prioritized
application to determine~~determining~~ whether the second application is thea
predetermined prioritized~~favoured~~ application, in the event that the second application is
the predetermined prioritized application, to determine whether the resource has the
authority to allocate itself to the second application, and in the event that the resource has
the authority to allocate itself to the second application, to allocate the resource to the
second application.

20. ~~A program for execution by a processor for implementing the steps of claim~~
~~1.~~

21. ~~A program for execution by a processor for implementing the steps of claim~~
~~19.~~

22. (New) A computer program product according to claim 19, wherein the
program code is further arranged to request a decision as to how to allocate the resource,
in the event that the resource does not have the authority to allocate itself to the second
application.

23. (New) A system according to claim 15, wherein the resource is configured
to request a decision from a resource manager as to how to allocate itself in the event that
the resource does not have the authority to allocate itself to the second application.

24. (New) A system according to claim 15, wherein the decision depends on input from a user of the first and second applications.

25. (New) A system according to claim 15, wherein the decision depends on predetermined priorities assigned to the first and second applications.

26. (New) A system according to claim 15, wherein the decision comprises denying allocation to the second application.

27. (New) A system according to claim 15, wherein the identity of the prioritized application is stored at the resource.

28. (New) A method of resolving conflicts in the allocation of a shared resource between a first application to which the resource is currently allocated and a second application requesting access to the resource, comprising:

receiving, at the resource, a resource allocation request that includes an identity for the second application;

comparing, at the resource, the identity of the second application with an identity for a predetermined prioritized application to determine whether the second application is the predetermined prioritized application;

in the event that the second application is the predetermined prioritized application, determining, at the resource, whether the resource has the authority to allocate itself to the second application; and

in the event that the resource does not have the authority to allocate itself to the second application, the resource requesting a decision from a resource manager as to how to allocate itself.

29. (New) A method of resolving conflicts in the allocation of a plurality of shared resources between a first application to which one of said plurality of resources is currently allocated and a second application requesting access to said one of said plurality of resources, in a resource management system that includes a resource manager, the method comprising permitting said one of said plurality of resources to allocate itself to said second application if it has the authority to do so, without requesting permission to allocate itself from the resource manager.

30. (New) The method of claim 29, further comprising the step of permitting said one of said plurality of resources to request an allocation decision from the resource manager only if it does not have the authority to allocate itself to the second application.